POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Pete Gallagher, Vice Chairman Joe Roemer, Commissioners David Ekholm, Edward Trail, Frank Tavolacci, and Chief Vincent Zafonte

ALSO PRESENT: Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland, 1ST Asst. Chief Vincent Duffield, Jr., 2nd Asst. Chief Garrett Biagiarelli, Capt. Nicholas Rienzi, 1st Lt. Steven Anuszkiewicz, Fire Police Captain Ray Andretta

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Rid g e Fir e District to order at 7:25 P.M.

APPROVAL OF M INUTES:

Commissioner Roemer’s motion to accept the January minutes was seconded by Commissioner Tavolacci and was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Commissioner Ekholm’s motion to approve payment of the bills was seconded by Commissioner Roemer and was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roemer’s motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Commissioner Tavolacci and was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Zafonte advised there were 17 calls for the month of January: 2 fires, 2 EMS/rescue, 2 hazardous conditions, 2 service calls, 2 good intent calls, and 7 false alarms.

See attached docs.

Training this month will be forcible entry.

Sam Dodge is working on finding online courses for sexual harassment training and a place for those without computers to take the training. Training has to have a tracking tool so we can know who took it.

Chairman Gallagher then addressed the recurring expense list and the need to refresh it and bring it up to date so we know what and how much we have to spend on those items every year. Very important since we have already gone through $70,000 of the $100,000 advance on our tax revenue.

Chief Zafonte said he understood and then asked about taking overage on new Chief’s truck from his EP budget.

M EM BERSHIP:

No Report

CHIEF'S PURCHASES

 Terry McNamara is working on a special ramp for 112 to get the big pump off the truck, cost of $509 to fabricate when our tax money comes in.

 Other departments are now carrying NARCAN in their med bags. $440 for 8 units when we get the tax money. Would have to go to recurring thereafter. Would also need to add training on using it.

 Wants to spend $360x4 for binoculars for chief’s cars and rescue. Total of $1,440. Purchase TBD.

Capt. Rienzi brings up that officers need and want space to work. Chief Zafonte is in his office, Caretaker Dodge is in the office outside. Officers have numerous duties and meetings they need to have, so they are suggesting taking back the office outside the Chief’s office and moving Caretaker Dodge upstairs to the Commissioner’s conference room. Chief Zafonte says Caretaker Dodge knows of this plan. The Chief said he told Caretaker Dodge that he would take money out of the Chief’s budget to buy an office suite similar to the one downstairs.

 Another possibility is to buy laptops and a printer. But ideally the desire is to move caretaker Dodge upstairs to the Conference room and give the downstairs room back to the officers. Commissioner Ekholm will speak to Caretaker Dodge.

2nd asst. Chief Biagarelli said there are changes that need to be made to his Chief’s truck for chargers, a pull-out tray, a new console, etc, that would cost an estimated $6,235.50. Not an urgent matter but desirable.

LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE:

Plans for building addition are coming along. Trying to get professional services firms under contracts. Talking with attorney Brad Pinsky about this. Need to establish clear accountability between all parties.

Can’t have more than two commissioners attend any meeting, but there are three working on the project, so Chairman Gallagher will go to contract and funding and attorney meetings, and Commissioners Ekholm and Tavolacci will do design meetings.

Question of need to expand the building committee to deal with outstanding issues. Add other members as needed to address specific issues, but no desire to do general emails to the whole membership about these issues.

Chairman Gallagher expresses a desire to get out to bid by Thanksgiving so construction can begin in spring of 2024. Wants to have a meeting soon. Tuesday Feb. 21st at 6p is suggested.

Chairman Gallagher asks about status of NYSEG box in front of firehouse. Who will pay for moving utilities? Need to find out.

WATER SUPPLY:

Commissioner Ekholm says the school is now moving forward on fixing the pond at the elementary school. The person who was previously in charge is being replaced, and the school is now acting.

Ray Andretta reported that they have tested the hydrant on South Bedford Road causeway.

Hydrant on White Birch road (Lalli) is useless and should be cut off.

Need to investigate what it would take to fix Rodney’s pond on Barnegat Road.

Need to remove brush, etc., from access to pond across from Tatomuck, but neighbors are very sensitive.

Commissioner Ekholm has a quote to take care of trees near the Memorial in the lower fields. Could only get one company to give a quote of $3,600.

Commissioner Ekholm makes motion to go ahead with the project to trim or remove trees by this company at $3,600. Commissioner Roemer seconds. Passes unanimously.

INSURANCE: Commissioner Roemer brings up that we are insuring a number of people who are not active members of the department anymore. This is just term life insurance. Question is should we continue insuring them at a total cost of approximately $2,000 per month. Worker’s comp would continue. Chief says he would be happy to call people to discuss them opting out of insurance.

(Discussion continues in executive session to discuss HR matter)

COM PUTER: NR

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD M EETINGS: The town is discussing an amendment that would allow our members who live in South Salem to get the tax break for firefighters.

MEDICAL: No report

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

 We have bids from three companies to clean the firehouse.

 ARCO @ $530/month + tax

 GOTO @$480/month bi-weekly or $960/month monthly

 Joel’s Cleaning service @ $180/week or $250/biweekly ($500/month)

 Commissioner Ekholm makes a motion to hire ARCO on a monthly basis. Commissioner Tavolacci seconds. Unanimous approval. Money to be taken from Building Maintenance budget line.

 Question is raised about the need for a computer for the officer’s room. To be investigated and reported on next meeting.

There being no additional business to come before the Board Commissioner Trail’s motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Roemer and unanimously agreed to by all the attending Commissioners. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 P.M .

Respectfully submitted,

 Justin Friedland

Secretary/Treasurer